

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CG-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEAE-00 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AECE-00 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-03 CEA-02 TRSE-00 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14

OIC-04 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /280 W

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O P 041335Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3890

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP
SEABED MINING AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: STATE 193106, CARACAS 8544

DEPT FOR D/LOS

CARACAS FOR US DEL LOS

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT WELL ADOPT
SIMILAR LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH CLAIM AND PROTECT ITS
INTEREST IN EXCLUSIVE EXPLOITATION OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES,
INCLUDING MINERALS AND FISH WITHIN 200-MILE LIMIT, PENDING
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SATISFACTORY NEGOTIATION AND RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL

AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ASSUMING PASSAGE OF EITHER OR BOTH BILLS, EMBASSY BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT VERY WELL ADOPT SIMILAR LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH CLAIM DESIGNED TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS IN EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT (A) ALL NON-LIVING RESOURCES ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AND WITHIN ECONOMIC ZONE EXTENDING 200 MILES; AND (B) ALL FISHING RESOURCES WITHIN 200-MILE LIMIT.

2. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT WOULD DOUBTLESS PREFER TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, WE THINK EXAMPLE OF U.S. TAKING STEPS TO SECURE RIGHTS THROUGH INTERIM LEGISLATION PENDING COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS WOULD STRONGLY INFLUENCE SAG TO TAKE SIMILAR PROTECTIVE ACTION PENDING ADOPTION OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS.

3. WE DOUBT ANY LEGISLATION PROPOSED WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC ZONE LIMIT AND RIGHTS WOULD ALTER SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR 12-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT WITH TRADITIONAL RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE IN SHIPPING LANES.

4. WE ARE NOT ABLE JUDGE HERE WHETHER SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP IN ICSEAF (INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES) AND APPARENTLY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MEMBERS WOULD BE CONSTRAINING FACTOR IN ADOPTION OF 200-MILE LIMIT FOR EXCLUSIVE FISHING RIGHTS. SOUTH AFRICA IS ALSO SIGNATORY TO ICCAT AGREEMENT (INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA).

5. ECONOMIC RESOURCES WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PARTICULARLY WISH TO PROTECT INCLUDE LARGE UNDERSEA MANGANESE DEPOSITS AND RICH FISHING GROUNDS OFF THE COASTS OF SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA; POSSIBLY DIAMONDS AND HOPEFULLY OIL.

6. FONMIN MULLER CONCLUDED SPEECH DELIVERED IN FEBRUARY ON LOS AND SAG VIEWS WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT. QUOTE SOUTH AFRICA WILL WATCH CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE LIGHT OF PROPOSALS THAT ARE MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL ADOPT A POSITION TO INSURE THAT OUR INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED AND FURTHERED AS BEST POSSIBLE. UCYUOTE. (PRETORIA 2475) HURD.

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